CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to the individual IL-17 receptor.

2. A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, the method comprising administering to the individual an IL-17 receptor antibody, wherein the IL-17 receptor antibody inhibits IL-17 receptor signal transduction.

3. A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to the individual a therapeutic comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the extracellular domain of human IL-17 receptor and a fragment of the extracellular domain of human IL-17 receptor, wherein the fragment inhibits the binding of IL-17 receptor and IL-17.

4. A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, the method comprising administering to the individual a therapeutic comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
   (a) a polypeptide having amino acids 33 through 322 of SEQ ID NO:1;
   (b) a polypeptide that is at least about 70% identical to the polypeptide of (a) and that binds IL-17; and
   (c) fragments of the proteins of (a) or (b), that bind IL-17.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the therapeutic is a chimeric fusion protein that further comprises an immunoglobulin Fc.

6. The method according to claim 3, further comprising administering, one or more therapeutics selected from the group consisting of a TNF antagonist and an IL-1 antagonist.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the IL-1 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of soluble IL-1 receptor type II, IL-1R type I antibody, IL-1 receptor antagonist, and fusion protein comprising soluble IL-1 receptor type I, and soluble IL-1 receptor accessory protein..

8. The method of claim 2, further comprising administering one or more therapeutics selected from the group consisting of TNF antagonist, IL-1 antagonist and DMARD.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the TNF antagonist is selected from the group consisting of TNF antibodies, soluble TNF receptor p75, and soluble TNF receptor p55.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the IL-1 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of soluble IL-1 receptor type II, IL-1R type I antibody, IL-1 receptor antagonist, and fusion protein comprising soluble IL-1 receptor type I, and soluble IL-1 receptor accessory protein.

11. The method of claim 6 wherein the TNF antagonist is selected from the group consisting of TNF antibodies, soluble TNF receptor p75, and soluble TNF receptor p55.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein the DMARD is methotrexate.